

Message Text

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73

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E.O. 11652: GDS
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SUBJ: PROPOSED NATO SYMPOSIUM ON ENERGY
1. DEPT. CONTINUES TO QUESTION THE GENERAL DESIRABILITY
OF HOLDING UNCLASSIFIED SYMPOS ON SENSITIVE ISSUES
AND THE SPECIFIC USEFULNESS OF A MEETING ON DELICATE EAST-
WEST ENERGY MATTERS WHICH WOULD LIKELY FOCUS LARGELY ON
SUBJECT OF OIL AND GAS. IN VIEW CURRENT CONFLICT IN
MIDDLE EAST AND OBVIOUS UNCERTAINTY AS TO HOW OIL
SUPPLY SITUATION WILL DEVELOP IN NEAR FUTURE, MISSION
SHOULD SEEK POSTPONEMENT OF DISCUSSION AND DECISION ON
THIS QUESTION IN ORDER TO SEE HOW SITUATION DEVELOPS. WE
HAVE NO WAY OF PREDICTING REPERCUSSIONS THAT CONFLICT
MAY HAVE ON CRITICAL OIL FLOWS FROM MIDDLE EAST. WE
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UNDERSTAND THAT SYMPOSIUM BEING CONSIDERED FOR JANUARY,

BUT IN JANUARY NATO ALLIES COULD WELL FIND THEMSELVES
INVOLVED IN IMPORTANT DISCUSSIONS ON OIL WHICH COULD BE
CONFUSED OR NEGATIVELY AFFECTED BY PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS
WHO MEETING UNDER NATO UMBRELLA. IN SUM, PRESENT SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO OIL REQUIRES CAUTIOUS APPROACH AND WE SEE
NOTHING TO BE LOST BY POSTPONING DECISION UNTIL SITUATION
CLEARER, PERHAPS ONE MONTH. KISSINGER

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